

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 3-8 and 11-12 are amended by this response. Claim 2 is canceled. Accordingly, claims 3-12 remain pending.

In the latest office action, the Examiner indicated the allowability of the subject matter of dependent claims 4 and 5, if amended to incorporate the elements of the parent independent claim and any intervening dependent claims.

Accordingly, independent claim 2 is canceled without prejudice to filing a continuation application drawn thereto. Claim 4 is amended to be in independent form, including the elements of now-canceled claim 2. Claims 3, 6-8 and 11-12 are amended to depend from claim 4 rather than claim 2. Claim 5 is amended to be in independent form, including the elements of now-canceled claim 2.

In response to the Examiner's objection to non-idiomatic language of claim 3, this claim is amended to indicate that a thrust spring presses a ball against a shaft, as shown in Figure 1 and described at page 8, lines 1-2. No new matter is added by virtue of this amendment.

Finally, Applicants request that Examiner Mullins return with the notice of allowance expected to be mailed in response to this amendment, a copy of the initialed form 1449 indicating his consideration of the JP H6-74083 unexamined Japanese patent application recently submitted by Applicants in the Supplemental IDS of September 13, 2005.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



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